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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We remember with gratitude and thanksgiving the life and work of our colleague, STEVE SCHIFF, and we recall his life with a deep and lasting appreciation. We pray that your blessing, O God, would be with his family and upon all those who loved him and who received his love and his grace.

We remember the great traits that he brought to his responsibilities as a Member of this body and we are aware how this institution was ennobled by his integrity and his honesty. He was a friend to so many and his ideas and counsel made a difference for good in the history of our Nation. For his wisdom and sound judgment, for the dignity and intellect that he carried with him, for his commitment to the people he represented and for the love of family that he showed, we offer our thanks and praise.

May your peace, O God, that passes all human understanding, be with his family and with each of us now and evermore. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Oregon (Ms. FURSE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Furse led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed a concurrent resolution of the following title, in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 87. Concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of S. 419.

QUESTION OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of personal privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT). Based on the Chair's examination of press accounts referring to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) which he has furnished to the Chair, the gentleman is recognized for a question of personal privilege. Under rule IX, the gentleman is recognized for 1 hour.

(Mr. SHUSTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, many years ago, Joseph McCarthy in Wheeling, West Virginia stood up and waved papers and said he had the names of 57 Communists in government. Well, he got lots of headlines but, of course, he was eventually proved to be a liar. I am reminded of that event, although I certainly make no such charge here today.

Mr. Speaker, three of our colleagues have made numerous statements in the media that we have been, quote, "buying votes," to get them to support our BESTEA transportation legislation in exchange for projects which we have given them. Indeed, conversely, that we have been threatening Members that if they did not vote with us, they would not get the projects.

Let me make this very clear. I challenge these Members to name one person, one person whom I went to and said they will get a project in exchange

for their vote. I challenge them to name one person who I threatened that they not get a project if they voted against us.

Indeed, if we look back at the battle we had here last year on the budget resolution where we had our transportation amendment, I urge my colleagues to go look at Members who voted against us and then look at the projects they are receiving today. This is simply a blatant falsehood.

Now, no doubt many Members support our legislation because it is important to their district, because it is important to America, because they are getting projects that they have requested and which have been vetted through our 14-point requirement.

It seems that in life sometimes there are those who, when one takes a different view from their view, they must somehow ascribe some base motivation. They simply cannot believe that because someone disagrees with them, that another's motives can be as pure as theirs. Indeed, sometimes it seems as though the smaller the minority they represent, the more incensed they become, because they view themselves as more pure, more righteous, more sanctimonious than the larger majority of us who are mere mortals. But I do not ascribe any of these motives to our colleagues. I prefer to believe that they simply are misinformed.

Mr. Speaker, the supreme irony, the supreme irony is that the three individuals who have been attacking us, attacking our motives, attacking our integrity, have submitted projects to us for their own congressional districts.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), ranking member of the full committee.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I join in the gentleman's indignation, to put it mildly,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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